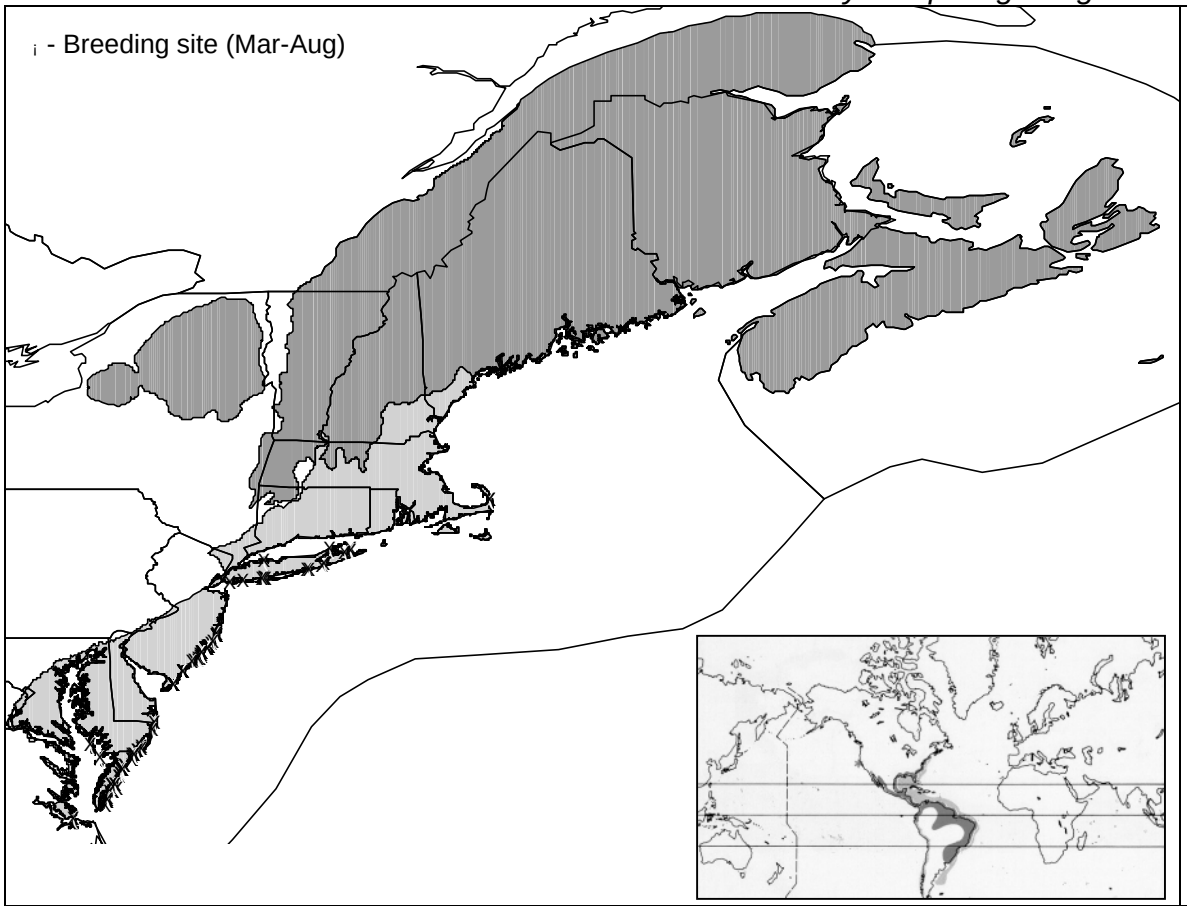
BLACK SKIMMER

Rynchops niger niger



Regional Occurrence (BCRs 14, 30)

- Distribution: breeds in region
- Habitats used: near coasts on sandy beaches, shell banks, coastal islands (breeding); bays, estuaries, mudflats (migrating)

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=3

Regional Abundance

- 1990s population: US—7,665 (52 colonies); CAN—0
- 1970s population: US—7,548 (43 colonies)
- stable regional population, although recent declines in VA, NY and NJ

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=4

Regional Threats

- Flooding of nests, overall sea level rise, predation
- Egging by humans has previously greatly reduced skimmer populations
- Human disturbance reduces breeding success
- Predation and competition with gulls
- Population concentrated into few nesting sites

NAWCP TB=4; NAWCP TN=3

Conservation Status: Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals) and Conservation Rank

Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
?	65,000 – 70,000b	0b	7,665b	7,579b	86b	0b	0b
IUCN- Not Evaluated	NAWCP- High Concern	High Concern (PI=0)	High Concern (PI=11-12%)	NJ- S1B; DE-S1B; MD-S1S2B; VA-S2B, S1N	NY-S2; CT-SAB,SZN; RI-S1N; MA-S1; VT-no info	MA-S1; NH- no info; ME- no info; NB, NS-no info	QC, PEI - no info NB, NS - no info

Conservation Needs: *Sustainability*: 2.77 young / pair / year; *Foraging Habitat*: < or = 8 km from NY colony; 5.2 km from GA colony; tidal waters of bays, estuaries, lagoons, rivers, salt marsh pools, creeks, ditches; *Issues*: Protection of suitable breeding sites is crucial, especially considering the expansion of human populations and their attraction to coastal areas. Large colonies can be protected by restricting development, prohibiting the use of recreational vehicles in nesting areas, and through educating the public; potential conflict with Menhaden fishery; use roof nesting opportunities; *Needs*: monitor; Population *Goals*: restore (increase); target 6,900-8,500b; *Habitat Goals*: restoration at nesting sites, gull and vegetation management